

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application:

1. (original): A mandrel for producing a glass tube or rod, comprising a self-supporting metal material jacket (22).
2. (original): The mandrel according to claim 1, wherein the self-supporting metal jacket (22) comprises an outer wall and an inner self-supporting structure.
3. (original): The mandrel according to claim 2, wherein the inner self-supporting structure comprises at least one support strut.
4. (previously presented): The mandrel according to claim 2, wherein the inner self-supporting structure comprises at least one thrust or annular ring.
5. (previously presented): The mandrel according to claim 2, wherein the inner supporting structure is an embossed or corrugated plate made of a metal material substantially similar to the metal material of the outer wall.
6. (original): A mandrel for producing a glass tube or rod, comprising,
a body (1) comprising a ceramic composite material, and
an external metal material jacket (2) surrounding at least a portion of said body,
wherein the ceramic composite material has a substantially similar thermal expansion coefficient as the metal material of said jacket.

7. (original): The mandrel according to claim 6, wherein the ceramic composite material is a bonded material.
8. (previously presented): The mandrel according to claim 6, wherein the ceramic composite material is a casting slip material.
9. (previously presented): The mandrel according to claim 6, wherein the ceramic composite comprises $\text{MgO-MgAl}_2\text{O}_4$.
10. (previously presented): The mandrel according to claims 6, wherein the body (1) and the metal jacket (2) comprise at least a portion with an essentially cylindrical shape.
11. (previously presented): The mandrel according to claims 6, wherein the body (1) and the metal jacket (2) comprise at least a portion with conical shape.
12. (previously presented): The mandrel according to claim 6, wherein the entire body (1) and the metal jacket (2) comprise a conical shape.
13. (previously presented): The mandrel according to claim 6, wherein the body (1) and the metal jacket (2) is cylindrical at the rear end portion and conical at the front end portion.
14. (previously presented): The mandrel according to claim 1, wherein the mandrel (42) comprises at the rear end a biasing means adapted to assure a tight fit between a body (1) and the jacket (22).

15. (previously presented): The mandrel according to claim 1, wherein the mandrel (42) is axially symmetrical along its longitudinal axis.
16. (previously presented): The mandrel according to claim 1, wherein the mandrel (42) is a Danner blowpipe/tube or Danner sleeve.
17. (previously presented): The mandrel according to claim 1, wherein the mandrel (42) provides an inner channel for blowing gas through and allows treating the inside surface of the glass tube with at least one gas.
18. (previously presented): The mandrel according to claim 1, wherein the metal material comprises a PGM material.
19. (previously presented): The mandrel according to claim 1, wherein the metal material comprises platinum alloy.
20. (previously presented): The mandrel according to claim 1, wherein the metal material comprises an oxide dispersion strengthened platinum alloy.
21. (original): The mandrel according to claim 20, wherein the metal material comprises 0.1 to 0.5, and more preferably 0.16 wt.-% of zirconium and/or yttrium oxide.
22. (previously presented): The mandrel according to claim 1, wherein the metal material jacket comprises a coating which upon contact with an inside surface of the tube being produced is released and accumulates on the inside surface to form a coating thereon.

23. (previously presented): The mandrel according to claim 1, wherein the mandrel (42) has a front end and a rear end with respect to the flow direction of the glass material and wherein the diameters from the rear end to the front end are equally conical or decreasing.
24. (previously presented): The mandrel according to claim 1, wherein the mandrel (42) comprises essentially at the front end a fixed bearing adapted to rotate the mandrel around said axis.
25. (previously presented): The mandrel according to claim 1, wherein the mandrel (42) comprises essentially at the rear end a floating bearing, adapted to rotate the mandrel (42) around said axis.
26. (previously presented): The mandrel according to claim 1, wherein the biasing means comprises at least one spring (6).
27. (currently amended): A system for producing [[a]] the glass rod or tube of claim 1 using with a Danner blow tube, ~~according to anyone of the preceding claims the system~~ comprising further a nozzle for dispensing a flow of glass to the surface of the Danner blowpipe at one end of said blowpipe at a relatively high temperature in order to form a glass film, which is removed or pulled at the other end in form of a tube.
28. (previously presented): A method for producing a glass tube or rod according to claim 1, with a Danner blow tube.
29. (previously presented): Use of the mandrel, according to claim 1, for producing a glass tube or rod.

Applicant: SINGER, R.
U.S. Serial No.: 10/577,632
U.S. Filing Date: April 28, 2006
Notice to File Missing Parts
December 13, 2006
Page 6 of 7

30. (previously presented): Use of the mandrel according to claim 29 for a
Danner process.